

Executive Registry
8-5520

August 10, 1956

The Honorable Sherman Adams
Special Assistant to the President
The White House

Dear Sherm:

I attach the letter to the President covering the matter we discussed the other day with regard to possible intelligence briefings to be given during the Electoral Campaign.

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) ALLEN W. DULLES

Allen W. Dulles
Director

P.S. I have sent a copy of this correspondence to Foster.

A.W.D.

AWD:at

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee

1 cc - DCI File

1 cc - DD/I

1 cc - ER (w/basic papers)

8/14. rec

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 14, 1952

(C)

The President sent the following telegram to the Honorable
Dwight D. Eisenhower:

"I would be most happy if you would attend a Cabinet luncheon next Tuesday the Nineteenth. If you want to bring your Press Secretary and any other member of your staff I'll be glad to have them. If you can arrive at about twelve fifteen I'll have General Smith and the Central Intelligence Agency give you a complete briefing on the foreign situation. Then we will have luncheon with the Cabinet and after that if you like I'll have my entire staff report to you on the situation in the White House and in that way you will be entirely briefed on what takes place. I've made arrangements with the Central Intelligence Agency to furnish you once a week with the world situation as I also have for Governor Stevenson.

/s/ HARRY S. TRUMAN"

The following is the text of General Eisenhower's reply:

"
Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your offer to have me briefed by certain agencies of the government on the foreign situation. On the personal side I am also grateful for your luncheon invitation.

In my current position as standard bearer of the Republican Party and of other Americans who want to bring about a change in the National Government, it is my duty to remain free to analyze publicly the policies and acts of the present administration whenever it appears to me to be proper and in the country's interests.

During the present period the people are deciding our country's leadership for the next four years. The decision rests between the Republican nominee and the candidate you and your Cabinet are supporting and with whom you conferred before sending your message. In such circumstances and in such a period I believe our communications should be only those which are known to all the American people. Consequently I think it would be unwise and result in confusion in the public mind if I were to attend the meeting in the White House to which you have invited me.

As you know, the problems which you suggest for discussion are those with which I have lived for many years. In spite of this I would instantly change this decision in the event there should arise a grave emergency. There is nothing in your message to indicate that this is presently the case.

With respect to the weekly reports from the Central Intelligence Agency that you kindly offered to send me, I will welcome those reports. In line with my view, however, that the American people are entitled to all the facts in the International situation, save only in those cases where the security of the United States is involved, I would want it understood that the possession of these reports will in no other way limit my freedom to discuss or analyze foreign programs as my judgment dictates.

Very respectfully,

/s/ DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER"

Copied to Mr. Dulles.

The President sent the following telegram to the Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower:

"I would be most happy if you would attend a Cabinet luncheon next Tuesday the Nineteenth. If you want to bring your Press Secretary and any other member of your staff I'll be glad to have them. If you can arrive at about twelve fifteen I'll have General Smith and the Central Intelligence Agency give you a complete briefing on the foreign situation. Then we will have luncheon with the Cabinet and after that if you like I'll have my entire staff report to you on the situation in the White House and in that way you will be entirely briefed on what takes place. I've made arrangements with the Central Intelligence Agency to furnish you once a week with the world situation as I also have for Governor Stevenson.

/s/ HARRY S. TRUMAN"

The following is the text of General Eisenhower's reply:

"Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your offer to have me briefed by certain agencies of the government on the foreign situation. On the personal side I am also grateful for your luncheon invitation.

In my current position as standard bearer of the Republican Party and of other Americans who want to bring about a change in the National Government, it is my duty to remain free to analyze publicly the policies and acts of the present administration whenever it appears to me to be proper and in the country's interests.

During the present period the people are deciding our country's leadership for the next four years. The decision rests between the Republican nominee and the candidate you and your Cabinet are supporting and with whom you conferred before sending your message. In such circumstances and in such a period I believe our communications should be only those which are known to all the American people. Consequently I think it would be unwise and result in confusion in the public mind if I were to attend the meeting in the White House to which you have invited me.

As you know, the problems which you suggest for discussion are those with which I have lived for many years. In spite of this I would instantly change this decision in the event there should arise a grave emergency. There is nothing in your message to indicate that this is presently the case.

With respect to the weekly reports from the Central Intelligence Agency that you kindly offered to send me, I will welcome these reports. In line with my view, however, that the American people are entitled to all the facts in the International situation, save only in those cases where the security of the United States is involved, I would want it understood that the possession of these reports will in no other way limit my freedom to discuss or analyze foreign programs as my judgment dictates.

Very respectfully,

/s/ DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER"